

### *Short Sermon.*

own blood. Indeed, the history of the Church on earth is full of interest and instruction to the inhabitants of heaven, for St. Paul says that "unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places is known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God."

Moreover, many of God's works are made up of several parts, each of which is like the whole. A branch is a portion, and at the same time a likeness of a tree; a family is an image of the state, or nation, of which it is a part. And so every Christian congregation is a type and also a portion of the whole Church on earth.

It is, therefore, a subject for rejoicing when another Christian family or congregation is formed among us; another house of God built amidst our own houses; another centre fixed, from which the light of God's truth, and of the gospel of His Son, may be diffused; another star placed in the firmament of the Church; another light set to give light in the darkness of this sinful world. We may well rejoice when God puts it into the hearts of His servants to build another temple to His honour. We rejoice that the outward building itself, by its stately height and beautiful workmanship, should show that it is meant as an offering to the King of kings; but, far more, because we trust that in it shall be formed another spiritual temple made of Christian souls. We are glad, because here shall be gathered the two or three in the name of Christ, and He in the midst of them; because here, in the great congregation, God shall be honoured with the full burst of praise. Here shall many bring, every man the plague of his own heart, to the great Healer and Comforter of all. Here shall children be dedicated to Christ. Here shall be spread, for believing souls, the feast that shows forth His death, whose flesh was torn and whose blood was shed for us all. Here shall be proclaimed afresh, and as if in a new world, the story of the Love of God, and of the sufferings of Jesus. In all this we may well rejoice; even as there was an increase of gladness there, where no sorrows can ever come, when, in the ages long since past, God made this world of ours, that we might here live, to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him.

And yet we must rejoice with trembling. Though angels sang at the making of the world, yet sin soon entered into it, and death by sin. Even the Church of Christ itself, purchased by His death, and endowed by His spirit, has suffered from the assaults of the enemy. Outwardly she has not even now gathered into her fold one-half of the nations of the earth, and inwardly she has been grievously crippled and disfigured by manifold errors, heresies, and divisions. No doubt, also, in every newly enclosed field of God, the spirit of evil will try to sow bad seed among the good, and to prevent the good seed from bringing forth fruit unto perfection. To every Christian congregation is it said, "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation," and "Let your light shine before men, that they may glorify your Father, which is in heaven."

And never were such words more necessary than in our days.

This is an enquiring, questioning, unbelieving age. The claims of the Church, the word of God, what God has told us of His own will and His own character, all things, however sacred, are now